

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reception buffer, a transmission buffer, a transmission-reception buffer, a reception filter, a transmission filter and a packet processor are provided. If  
5 a response packet paired with a request packet has been received during a data exchange operation, then the reception filter stores the response packet received on the transmission-reception buffer and informs the packet processor of response detected. Alternatively, if a packet that has  
10 nothing to do with the current data exchange operation has been received, then the reception filter stores the received packet on the reception buffer and issues a suspension instruction to the packet processor. And when a transaction being carried out at the time of reception is completed, the  
15 packet processor suspends the data exchange. In this manner, the overheads involved with firmware processing by a central processing unit can be reduced and data can be exchanged at higher speeds.